
The Charge of the Church-wardens and Side-men.

HAVING received a Copy of this Book, you are required to repair to your Minister; to hear all these Articles duly and deliberately read over to you; duly and diligently to consider of them; and by his Advice, (and if need be, with his Concurrence) to present all, and every such Person or Persons of your Parish, as have committed any Offence, or made any Default, mention'd in these Articles, or any of them; or which are vehemently suspected for the same: Wherein you are to deal uprightly and impartially; all Affection and Favour, all Hatred and Malice, all hope of Reward or Advantage, and fear of Displeasure set aside; Signing such your Presentments with your Hands.

The Form of their Oath.

YOU shall Swear Truly and Faithfully to Execute the Office of Church-warden, according to the best of your Skill and Knowledge. So help you God.

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ARTICLES
OF
Visitation and Enquiry
Concerning
Matters Ecclesiastical,

EXHIBITED

To the Ministers, Church-Wardens, and Side-
Men, of every Parish, within the

Diocess of E X E T E R,

At the Primary Visitation of the
Right Reverend FATHER in GOD,

O F S P R I N G,

By Divine Permission,

Lord Bishop of Exeter.

In the Year of our Lord, 1709.

EXON: Printed by *Sam. Farley*, for *Philip Bishop*,
Bookseller, in the *High Street*. 1709.

ARTICLES

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Concerning

Matters Ecclesiastical.

EXHIBITED
To the Honorable House of Commons
in the Year 1701.

DIOCESE OF A. K. E. T. E.

As the Bishop of the said Diocese
Right Reverend Father in God
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Printed by J. Sturges, for J. Sturges, 1701.

ARTICLES

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Visitation and Enquiry

Within the

Diocess of *EXETER*.

T I T. I.

*Concerning Churches and Chappels ; the Fabrick,
Furniture, and Ornaments thereof.*

1. **I**S your Parish-Church or Chappel, kept in good and sufficient Repair? Are the Utensils and Ornaments fairly Kept, and preserved from Spoil, Abuse, and Prophanation? And all things so decently Ordered as becometh the House of God?

2. Hath

2. Hath the Steeple, or Tower, or any other part of your Church or Chappel, been pull'd or fallen down? Or have any of the Bells, Lead, or other Materials or Utensils formerly belonging thereunto, been imbezelled, sold, or made away, and by whom? Is any Church or Chappel gone to ruine? By whom hath it been suffer'd to do so? Hath any Church or Chappel been converted to any Profane Use?

3. Is there a decent Font of Stone, fixed in the Antient and Usual Place, in the lower part of the Church, for the Administration of Holy Baptism, and a comely Table for the Holy Communion, placed where it ought to be, with a Carpet of some decent Stuff, and a fair Linnen Cloth to cover it, at the time of Administration of the Holy Eucharist? And have you a fair Chalice or Communion Cup with a Cover, and a Plate or Paten for the Bread and a Flaggon for the Wine, to be used in the Holy Communion? And are they used in these Holy Services only?

4. Have you in your said Church or Chappel, a convenient Seat or Pew for your Minister to read Divine Service in? A Pulpit with a comely Cloth and Cushion; a Bible of the last Translation, in a large Volume, and two of those Books of Common-Prayer, Established by the Act of Uniformity? Have you

you likewise the Book of Homilies, set forth by Authority? a Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical, first set forth in the Year of our Lord, 1603, by the King's Authority? and a Printed Table of the Degrees, wherein Marriage is Prohibited.? Have you also the Proclamation, to be read yearly Jan, 30th? And the Act of Parliament to be read the Sunday before the Twenty Ninth of May?

5. Have you a comely large Surplice for the Minister to wear at all times of his publick Ministration in the Church, provided and duly Washed at the Charge of the Parish?

6. Have you a Register-Book of Parchment wherein the Names and Surnames of all Persons Married, Christened, or Buried within your Parish, are duly Registered from time to time? Have you likewise another Book of Paper, wherein are duly Recorded the Names and Licenses of all such Strangers as are admitted at any time to Preach in your Church or Chappel? As also a third Book, wherein are Entered the Church-Wardens Accompts for every Year?

7. Have you a Chest or Coffer wherein to keep the aforesaid Books, and all the aforesaid Furniture in safe Custody? And another with a Hole in the upper part thereof, placed in the most convenient part

part of the Church, that the Parishioners may put their Alms into it? And are both the said Chests secured with three several Locks and Keys; one Key remaining with the Minister, and the other two with the Church-Wardens, severally?

8. Are there any Meeting-Houses in your Parish of Protestant Dissenters, of what denomination soever? (if any such) Who are their Teachers? Have they certify'd the place of their Meeting to the Bishop, or such others, as the Act appoints? Do they meet with their doors lock'd, barr'd, or bolted, during the time of their Meeting? Have you heard it reported that at their Meetings, they do not Pray for *Queen Anne* by Name?

9. Does the Preacher, or any other of them, declare, that any of the 39 Articles, (except those 3 excepted in the late Act) are in any part Superstitious or Erroneous? Does the Preacher Affirm that he cannot with a good Conscience subscribe unto them?

10. Are there any Popish Meetings in your Parish? Are there any Popish Priests in your Parish? What are their Names? With whom they do live? Or, whose Houses do they frequent? Do, or have they Solicited any to alter their Religion? Have any of your People been perverted by them?

11. Do

11. Do any Recusants whatever, in their Discourse and Talk, affirm, that the Church of *England* is not a True and Apostolical Church, teaching and maintaining the Doctrine of the Apostles? Do they affirm, That the Form of God's Worship, in the Church of *England*, contained in the Book of Common-Prayer, and Administration of the Sacraments, is a Corrupt, Superstitious, or Unlawful Worship of God? Or containeth any thing that is Repugnant to the Scriptures? Do any of them Affirm, That the Rights and Ceremonies of the Church of *England*, by Law establish'd, are Wicked, Antichristian, or Superstitious? Can. 3.
Can. 4.
Can. 6.

12. Do they affirm, that the Government of the Church of *England*, by Arch-Bishops, Bishops, Deans, Arch-Deacons, &c. is Antichristian, or Repugnant to the Word of God? Do any affirm, That it is Lawful for any sorts of Ministers, and Lay Persons, or either of them, to joyn together to make Rules, Orders, or Constitutions in Causes Ecclesiastical, without the Queen's Authority, or do any submit themselves to be Rul'd and Govern'd by such Orders and Constitutions? Does your Minister administer the Communion to any but such as Kneel; or to such as at other Times absent themselves from the Publick Worship in the Church? Can. 7.
Can. 27.

13. Are there any Funeral Monuments erected without Licence from the Ordinary?

T I T. II.

Concerning the Church-yard; the Houses and Glebes; the Tithes, and other Dues belonging to the Church.

IS your Church-yard sufficiently Fenced and Decently kept from all Prophanation and Encroachment? Hath any Person made any Door into it out of his own House or Ground? Who, and how long since? Have any Trees growing on the Glebe, or Church-yard been cut down; by whom, and to what Use and Benefit?

2. Is there a House belonging to your Parson, Vicar, or Curate? And is the same, with all the Out-houses thereunto belonging, kept in good and sufficient repair? Hath any one Encroached upon any Garden, Yard, or Close, belonging to your Parsonage, or Vicarage-House, or changed, or removed the Ancient Marks and Bounds of the same?

3. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-Lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cot-

Cottages, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? As also a Note of such Pensions, Rate-Tithes, and Portions of Tithes, or other Yearly Profits (either within or without your Parish) as belong thereunto? And is there a Copy of the said Terrier and Note deliver'd in, to be laid up in the Register-Office? Have any of these been withheld from your Minister? and when, or by whom?

4. Have any of the Ancient Glebe Lands belonging to your Parsonage, or Vicarage, been alienated, taken away, or Exchanged for others, and by whom, and when hath the same been done, and how much is your Parsonage or Vicarage damnified thereby, in the Yearly Value thereof as you know, believe, or have heard? Are all the Tithes, as well great as small, impropriated into any Layman's hands; if so, what Allowance or Provision is there made for a Curate (and that constantly) to attend? Or is the Church only served at uncertain times, as the Patron thinks fit?

T I T. III.

Concerning the Clergy.

1. **I**S your Minister (so far as you know, or believe) in Holy Orders, according to the Rules of the Church of *England*? Is he Lawfully admitted to the Cure of Souls in your Parish, as you believe or have heard? Or is he reported or suspected to have obtained either his Orders by any undue Practices, or Benefice by any Symoniacal Contract?
- 2 Is there any Chappel or Chappels of Ease or Parochial Churches or Chappels belonging to your *Mother Church*; if so, at what distance are they, and how are they serv'd and provided for?
3. Hath your Minister any other Ecclesiastical Benefice with Cure; and how far distant from you, and in what Diocess? Is he generally Resident among you? And when he is Resident, doth he constantly live in his incumbent House? Hath he any *Curate* usually to assist him when Resident? And when absent, on due Occasions, doth he provide one, able, sufficient, and conformable to the Laws
and

and Orders of the *Church of England*, and duly Licensed by the Bishop? and how long has he served there?

4. Doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, read Divine Service on all *Sundays* and *Holy Days*; and the *Litany* (at least) on every *Wednesday* and *Friday*; does he, in the Reading of the Service, omit any Prayer or Prayers, or part of any Prayer or Prayers? And does he publicly Administer the Holy Sacrament of *Baptism* when there is occasion; and the *Eucharist* at least three times a Year, at the three great *Festivals*; and perform all other Ministerial *Offices* and *Duties*, in such manner and form, as is directed by the Book of *Common-Prayer*, lately establish'd, and the Act of *Uniformity* therewith published? Does your Minister maintain and set forward, as much as in him lies, *Quietness*, *Peace*, and *Love*, amongst all *Christian People*, and especially those committed to his Charge? And does he, to your knowledge, reverently obey his Ordinary, and other chief Ministers, to whom is committed the Charge and Government over him, following with a glad *Mind* and *Will*, their Godly Admonitions, and submitting himself to their Godly Judgments?

5. Have any other Orders been published in your Church besides what have come from Her Majesty or your Ordinary, as the Rubrick Directs? Doth he on the Lord's Day give Notice of the Holy Days and Fasting

Fasting Days in the Week following, that the People may be put in mind and incited to resort to public Prayers in the Church upon those solemn Occasions? And doth your Minister and Parishioners observe the Yearly Prayers and Perambulation in *Rogation Week*, for preserving the Bounds of the Parish, and desiring God's Blessing upon the Fruits of the Earth.

6. Doth he himself, constantly every *Sunday* (unless in case of sickness or other reasonable impediment) Preach in your Church or Chappel; or procure a Sermon to be so Preached by some other Licens'd Preacher; or one of the Homilies set forth by Authority, to be there Read by a Priest or Deacon.

7. Doth your Minister diligently Examine and Instruct the Youth of your Parish in the Church *Catechism*, as in the Rubrick at the end of the said *Catechism* is Directed; and being thus prepared, and of convenient age, doth he take care to present them to a Bishop to be Confirmed?

8. Doth he refuse or neglect to visit, comfort, and pray with the Sick, or to bury the Dead, dying in the Communion of the Church? Doth he delay the Baptism of any Infant that is in real danger of Death; or Baptize them in any other place than the Church, when there is no such danger? Or does he Baptize any but

but on Sundays, Holy Days, or Litany Days? And when they are (in case of necessity) thus privately Baptized, doth he cause them afterwards, if they live, to be brought into the Church, and certify the Congregation of the Form of Baptism used in private, and proceed thereunto in all points, as in the Office of private Baptism is directed?

9. Hath he presumed to Marry any Persons in private Houses? Or such, as being under Age, have not the consent of their Parents, or without the Banns first published on three Sundays or Holy-days in the Church? Or at any other Hours than between Eight and Twelve in the Morning, unless he had a License or Dispensation so to do, granted by such Authority, and in such Form, as the *Canons* direct?

10. Does your Minister frequently in his Sermons, put his Congregation in mind of being subject to Principalities and Powers, and obeying Magistrates, according to the Injunction of the Apostle, and the Orders of the Church in that Behalf?

11. Doth your Preacher in his Prayer before Sermon, pray for the Queen's Majesty, with her whole Title, as Queen of *Great-Britain, France, and Ireland*, Defender of the Faith; and in all Causes, and over all Persons, as well Ecclesiastical as Civil, immediately under God Supreme Governour?

12. Is

12. Is your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, of a sober, unblameable and exemplary Life, given to Hospitality and Alms-deeds? Is he in his Apparel, and in his whole outward Garb and Dress, grave and decent, as the *Canons* of the Church require? Or, on the other side, is his Carriage and Conversation in any kind whatsoever disorderly or scandalous, and unbecoming a Minister of *Jesus Christ*? Is he in this Licentious Age, more than ordinarily active and diligent, to banish and drive away all Erroneous and Strange Doctrines contrary to God's Word, by endeavouring to reduce, by Affability, and other proper Means, such as are wavering, and in danger of falling from the Church?

13. Is there any place of Meeting for Religious Worship within your Parish, allowed by the Act of Toleration? And doth any Dissenting Minister hold any Congregation or Assembly for Religious Worship, or Baptise or Administer the Holy Communion, in any House not Licensed according to the said Act?

TIT.

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

1. **I**S there any Person in your Parish that lieth under a common Fame, or vehement suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Any common Drunkards, or common Swearers, or Blasphemers of God's Holy Name? Or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean or filthy Talkers, Sowers or Maintainers of Sedition, Faction, or Discord among their Neighbours? Or, in sum, any whose Life and Manners are contrary to Godliness, Peace, and Honesty?

2. Doth every Person inhabiting or sojourning within your Parish, duly resort unto your Church or Chappel, for Divine Service? If not, do such Persons duly go to some Congregation or Assembly for Religious Worship, allowed or permitted by the Act of Toleration? And do you, the Church-wardens, duly execute the * Law made and provided, for the frequenting of Divine Service on the Lord's-Day, commonly called Sunday, against such as go neither to their Parish Church, nor to any Congregation or Assembly, so allowed and permitted.

* Stat.
1. Elix.
Cap. 2.
14.

3. Do any of your Parish upon the Sundays or Holy-days, follow their bodily or ordinary Labour?

C

Or

Or compel or permit their Servants so to do? Are any Shops kept open, or Wares sold at such times? Or do any Vintners, Inn-keepers, or other Victuallers, and Sellers of Beer and Ale, suffer any Persons to Tipple or Game in their Houses upon those Days?

4. Have you any among you that be denounced and declared Excommunicate? How long have they been so? And do any of your Parish keep Society with them, before they be reconciled to the Church and absolved?

5. Are there any living in your Parish as Man and Wife, who are within the Degrees prohibited? or not being Married, cohabit as if they were Married? Or any that being lawfully Divorced, have Married again? Or any that being lawfully Married, and not Separated or Divorced by Course of Law, do not Cohabit together?

6. Are there any belonging to your Parish, who refuse to pay the just Dues to your Minister? Or any that refuse to contribute or pay the Rate assessed upon them for the Repair of your Church or Chappel, and for the providing of such Books, Furniture, and Ornaments, as be requisite for the Performance of all Divine Offices there?

7. Are there any Wills or Testaments of Persons dead in your Parish, that be yet unproved? Or any Goods administred without a due Grant from the Ordinary?

8. Is

8. Is there any Strife or Contention among any of your Parish, for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Or have any of them erected new Pews in your Chancel, or in the Body of your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary?

9. Do you know of any that have abused the Church-wardens of your Parish, by giving them evil Words for executing their Office, or to dishearten and deter them from it, as by Oath and Duty they are bound?

T I T. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks and Sextons.

1. **H**AVE you belonging to your Church or Chappel, a fit Parish-Clerk, aged 21 Years at least, of honest Life and Conversation, and sufficiently able to perform his Duty in Reading, Writing, and Singing; and does he perform it accordingly? Is he duly chosen by your Minister, and licensed by the Ordinary? And doth he diligently attend your Minister in all Divine Offices; audibly making and repeating the Responses and Suffrages, as in the *Litany* he is directed?

2. Doth he, or your Sexton, (if there be any such appointed in your Parish) diligently look to the Doors of your Church, that they be lock'd and open'd at due times? doth he keep your Church

or Chappel clean from Dirt, Dust, Cobwebs, and other Annoyance? Doth he Ring and Toll the Bells at the due and accustomed Hours, before Morning and Evening Service, that the People may be warned to come unto the Church?

T I T. VI.

*Concerning Hospitals, Schools, School-Masters,
Physicians, Chyrurgeons and Midwives.*

I S there in your Parish any Hospital, Alms-House or Free-School? Who was the Founder? Who is now the Patron thereof? And what is the yearly Revenue? What Stipends belong to the Governours or Masters of the same? Is the same Ordered and Governed in every respect as it ought to be? And are the Revenues thereof rightly employed, according to the intention of the Founder, and the Tenor of such Statutes and Ordinances, as have been made in pursuance of the same?

2. Have any living or dying in your Parish, or elsewhere, given any Gift or Legacy by Will, or otherwise, to the use of your Church, or Poor, or of the Parishioners in general? How is it settled, and in whose Hands? And is it, or hath it been misemployed, or disposed of to other Uses?

Doth

Doth any Man keep a publick or private School in your Parish? Is he allowed so to do by the Ordinary? Is he of sober Life and honest Conversation, and conformable to the Doctrine and Discipline Establiſhed? And doth he teach his Scholars good Manners, Sobriety, Modesty and Obedience, as well as other Learning? Are there any Popish Schools in your Parish? Or Schools taught by Dissenters? do either of them read Philosophy, or any of those parts of Learning, which are to be taught only in the two Universities? And do they Ordain or pretend to Ordain after their manner, any Persons in their Ministry?

4. Doth any Man or Woman in your Parish take upon them to practice *Physick*, or *Chyrurgery*? Or any Woman to exercise the Office of a Midwife, without being first examined and approved, and thereupon Licensed by the Ordinary? Or doth any Woman take upon her to keep a School, and teach Girls, or young Women; not being duly allowed so to do?

T I T. VII.

Queries to be put to the Minister, concerning the Church-wardens and Side-men.

1. **A**R E the Church-wardens of your Parish duly chosen by the joynt consent of the Minister

Minister and Parishioners? Or one of them by the Minister, and the other by the Parishioners? Or as the Custom of the Parish is?

2. Have the former and last *Church wardens* given up their due Accounts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding *Church-wardens* the Moneys remaining in their Hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

3. Do they take care that no Misbehaviour or Disorder be done by Men, Women, Servants, or Children, in your *Church* or *Chappel* during the time of Divine Service?

4. Do they against every *Communion* appointed in your Church or Chappel, provide a sufficient quantity of Bread and of Wine, according to the number of Communicants, at the Parish Charge?

5. Do they cause all Strangers that Preach in your Church or Chappel, to enter their Names the same day in a Book provided for that purpose, together with the Name of the Bishop that Licensed them to preach? And do they permit no other to preach?

6. Have they (the Church-wardens and Side-men) taken sufficient time to draw up their Presentments, and therein consulted with you their Minister, for your faithful Assistance?

D E A N S

DEANS Rural, are hereby desired and required, in their Presentments, to have strict regard to Dilapidations of Chancels, Parsonage and Vicarage-Houses, the Neglect of which has had very ill Consequences, and been an unanswerable Reproach to our Church.

For they, (as also you the Minister, Church-Wardens, and Side-Men) are all seriously to consider, That as the Faithful Discharge of your Trusts, according to your Duties or Oaths, is a special Means whereby publick Disorders, Sins, and Offences in your Parish may be punish'd and reform'd, the Honour of Religion, and the Peace of this Church to the Glory of our God and Saviour (which are the great Uses and Ends of all Church-Government and Visitations) be preserved: so if you neglect your Duties therein, by refusing to present such Crimes and Faults, as either you know to have been committed, or otherwise have heard of by publick Fame, you will not only sin against God, your Consciences, and the Church's Peace and Prosperity, and consequently draw upon yourselves the Guilt of being accessory to the said Decay of Religion; but also become liable to those Punishments, which in Cases of Wilful Omission and Perjury, are by the Laws to be inflicted upon you for your Defaults, and must expect that the Ordinary and his Officers will proceed against you accordingly.

OFSPRING EXON.

F I N I S.

